

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A primary battery, comprising:
a housing having a length, a width, and a thickness that are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery A;
an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing; and
5 a positive contact and a negative contact positioned such that the battery will not recharge if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery A.

2. The battery of claim 1, wherein the positive contact of the battery is offset relative to the position of the positive contact in Battery A.

3. The battery of claim 2, wherein the surface includes a first end and a second end that define the width of the battery, wherein the negative contact of the battery is disposed approximately at the first end of the surface, and the positive contact of the battery is disposed approximately at the second end of the surface.

4. The battery of claim 2, wherein the surface includes a recess that corresponds to the positive or negative contact of Battery A.

5. The battery of claim 1, wherein the negative contact of the battery is offset relative to the position of the negative contact in Battery A.

6. The battery of claim 1, wherein the battery does not comprise a thermistor that has an independent contact on the battery housing.

7. The battery of claim 1, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

8. The battery of claim 7, wherein the anode comprises lithium metal or a lithium-containing material.

9. The battery of claim 8, wherein the cathode comprises manganese dioxide.

10. A primary battery, comprising:
a housing having a length, a width, and a thickness that are approximately the same as
the length, width, and thickness of Battery B, C, D, E, F, or G;
5 an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing; and
a positive contact and a negative contact positioned such that the battery will not
recharge if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery B, C, D, E, F, or G.

11. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
10 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery B, and the
positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge
if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery B.

12. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
15 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery C, and the
positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge
if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery C.

13. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
20 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery D, and the
positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge
if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery D.

14. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
25 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery E, and the
positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge
if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery E.

15. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
30 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery F, and the

positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery F.

16. The battery of claim 10, wherein the length, width, and thickness of the
5 housing are approximately the same as the length, width, and thickness of Battery G, and the positive contact and the negative contact are positioned such that the battery will not recharge if placed in a recharger designed to recharge Battery G.

17. The battery of claim 10, wherein the positive contact of the battery is offset
10 relative to the position of the positive contact in Battery B, C, D, E, F, or G.

18. The battery of claim 17, wherein the surface includes a first end and a second
end that define the width of the battery, wherein the negative contact of the battery is
disposed approximately at the first end of the surface, and the positive contact of the battery
15 is disposed approximately at the second end of the surface.

19. The battery of claim 17, wherein the surface includes a recess that
corresponds to the positive or negative contact of Battery B, C, D, E, F, or G.

20. The battery of claim 10, wherein the negative contact of the battery is offset
20 relative to the position of the negative contact in Battery B, C, D, E, F, or G.

21. The battery of claim 10, wherein the battery does not comprise a thermistor
that has an independent contact on the battery housing.
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22. The battery of claim 10, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

23. A primary battery, comprising:
a housing having a thickness between about 2 mm and about 15 mm, a width between
30 about 10 mm and about 50 mm, and a length between about 20 mm and about 60 mm;

a positive electrical contact and a negative electrical contact on a surface of the housing; and

an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing,

wherein the battery does not comprise a thermistor that has an independent contact on the battery housing.

24. The battery of claim 23, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

25. The battery of claim 24, wherein the anode comprises lithium metal or a lithium-containing material.

26. A prismatic primary battery, comprising:

a housing having a thickness between about 2 mm and about 15 mm, a width between about 10 mm and about 50 mm, and a length between about 20 mm and about 60 mm;

a positive electrical contact and a negative electrical contact on a surface of the housing, the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact each occupying a contact space of about the same size, the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact being separated by a space that is at least big enough to insulate the negative electrical contact from the positive electrical contact; and

an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing.

27. The battery of claim 26, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

28. The battery of claim 27, wherein the anode comprises lithium metal or a lithium-containing material.

29. The battery of claim 26, wherein the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact are separated by a space that is at least approximately equal in size to the contact space.

30. The battery of claim 26, wherein the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact are separated by a space that is at least about 1.5 times the size of the contact space.

5 31. The battery of claim 26, wherein the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact are separated by a space that is at least about two times the size of the contact space.

10 32. The battery of claim 26, wherein the positive electrical contact and the negative electrical contact are separated by a space that is at least about 2.5 times the size of the contact space.

15 33. The battery of claim 26, wherein the battery does not comprise a thermistor that has an independent contact on the battery housing.

34. A primary battery, comprising:
a prismatic housing having a thickness between about 2 mm and about 15 mm, a width between about 10 mm and about 50 mm, and a length between about 20 mm and about 60 mm;
20 an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing; and
a positive electrical contact and a negative electrical contact on a surface on the housing,
wherein the positive and negative electrical contacts are located at opposite ends of the surface.

25 35. The battery of claim 34, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

36. The battery of claim 35, wherein the anode comprises lithium metal or a lithium-containing material.

30 37. A digital camera, comprising:

a housing comprising a surface with three electrical contacts,
wherein one of the contacts is a positive electrical contact, one of the contacts is a negative electrical contact, and the remaining contact is either a positive electrical contact or a negative electrical contact.

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38. A digital camera, wherein the digital camera is adapted to operate on either a lithium battery or a lithium ion battery.

39. The camera of claim 38, wherein the camera comprises electrical contacts that correspond to the electrical contacts on a lithium battery and electrical contacts that correspond to the electrical contacts on a lithium ion battery.

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40. A primary battery, comprising:
a housing having a thickness between about 2 mm and about 15 mm, a width between about 10 mm and about 50 mm, and a length between about 20 mm and about 60 mm;
a positive electrical contact and a negative electrical contact on a surface of the housing, wherein the negative contact also functions as a resistor; and
an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing.

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41. The battery of claim 40, wherein the battery is a lithium battery.

42. The battery of claim 41, wherein the anode comprises lithium metal or a lithium-containing material.

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43. The battery of claim 40, wherein the positive contact and the negative contact are on the same surface of the housing.

44. A primary battery, comprising:
a prismatic housing having a thickness between about 2 mm and about 15 mm, a width between about 10 mm and about 50 mm, and a length between about 20 mm and about 60 mm;

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an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte within the housing; and
a positive electrical contact and a negative electrical contact on a surface on the
housing,
wherein the battery is a 3 Volt battery.